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Siegesmund & Associates
Intellectual Property Attorneys & Counselors at Law

4627 N. Central Expressway
Dallas, Texas 75205-4022
214-528-2407 (voice)
214-889-5060 (fax)
www.siegesmund.com

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Examiner Robert Sandy	R. Siegesmund
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B. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A necktie control device for use with a shirt having a plurality of shirt buttons and a necktie having a necktie label comprising:

a first cover adapted for engagement to a first group of threads affixing a first one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt and enclosure of at least one side and a circumferential edge of a first one of the plurality of shirt buttons;

a second cover adapted for engagement to a second group of threads affixing a second one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt and enclosure of at least one side and a circumferential edge of a second one of the plurality of shirt buttons;

a flexible connector engaged to the first cover and the second cover; and
wherein the first cover or the second cover is adapted for passage between the necktie label and the necktie.

2. (Currently amended) The first cover of claim 1 ~~further comprising wherein~~ a first front is hingedly connected to a first back.

3. (Currently amended) The second cover of claim 1 ~~further comprising wherein~~ a second front is hingedly connected to a second back.

4. (Currently amended) The first back of claim 2 further comprising a slot adapted for passage of a group of threads affixing the first one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt.

5. (Currently amended) The second back of claim 3 further comprising a slot adapted for passage of ~~the~~ group of threads affixing the second one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt.

6. (Original) The necktie control device of claim 1 wherein the connector comprises a chain.

7. (Original) The chain of claim 6 further comprising a first end and a second end wherein the first end is connected to the first cover by a first ring and the second end is connected to the second cover by a second ring.

8. (Original) The first front of claim 2 further comprising a first flat circular top area adapted for placement of an artwork.

9. (Original) The second front of claim 2 further comprising a second flat circular top area adapted for placement of an artwork.

10. (Original) The necktie control device of claim 1 where the first cover and the second cover are identical.

11. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the length of the connector is in the range of approximately 3 ½ inches to 4 inches.

12. (Currently amended) The first cover of claim 2 wherein the ~~top~~ second front is engaged by a plurality of first posts when first cover is in a closed position.

13. (Currently amended) The second cover of claim 2 wherein the ~~top~~ second front is engaged by a plurality of second posts.

14. (Original) The first back of claim 2 further comprising a first hinge that is of unitary construction with the first back.

15. (Original) The second back of claim 2 further comprising a second hinge that is of unitary construction with the second back.

16. (Currently amended) A necktie control device for use with a shirt having a plurality of shirt buttons and a necktie having a necktie label comprising:

a first cover adapted for engagement to a first group of threads affixing a first one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt and enclosure of at least one side and a circumferential edge of a first one of the plurality of shirt buttons;

a second cover adapted for engagement to a second group of threads affixing a second one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt and enclosure of at least one side and a circumferential edge of a second one of the plurality of shirt buttons;

a flexible connector engaged to the first cover and the second cover; and
 wherein the first cover or the second cover is adapted for passage between the necktie label and the necktie;
 wherein the first cover comprises a first front hingedly connected to a first-base back;
 wherein the second cover comprises a second front hingedly connected to a second baseback;
 wherein the first baseback comprises ~~an aperture~~ a first slot and ~~an~~ a first opening wherein the slot is adapted for passage of a first group of threads for affixing the first one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt and the first opening is adapted for receiving the first group of threads; and
 wherein the second baseback comprises a second slot and ~~an~~ a second opening wherein the second slot is adapted for passage of a second group of threads for affixing the second one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt and the second slot is adapted for receiving the second group of threads.

17. (Original) The necktie control device of claim 16 wherein the connector comprises a chain.

18. (Original) The chain of claim 17 further comprising a first end and a second end wherein the first end is connected to the first cover by a first ring and the second end is connected to the second cover by a second ring.

19. (Original) The first front of claim 16 further comprising a first flat circular top area adapted for placement of an artwork.

20. (Currently amended) The second front of claim 16 further comprising a second flat circular top area adapted for placement of an artwork.

21. (Original) The necktie control device of claim 16 where the first cover and the second cover are identical.

22. (Original) The connector of claim 16 wherein the length of the connector is in the range of approximately 3 ½ inches to 4 inches.

23. (Currently amended) The first cover of claim 16 wherein the ~~top~~first front and the ~~slotted first back may be~~are engaged by a plurality of first posts.

24. (Currently amended) The second cover of claim 16 wherein the ~~top~~second front and the ~~slotted second back may be~~are engaged by a plurality of second posts.

25. (Original) The first back of claim 16 further comprising a first hinge that is of unitary construction with the first back.

26. (Original) The second back of claim 16 further comprising a second hinge that is of unitary construction with the second back.

27. (Currently amended) A necktie control device for use with a shirt having a plurality of shirt buttons and a necktie having a necktie label comprising:

a first cover adapted for engagement to a first group of threads affixing a first one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt and enclosure of at least one side and a circumferential edge of a first one of the plurality of shirt buttons;

a second cover adapted for engagement to a second group of threads affixing a second one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt and enclosure of at least one side and a circumferential edge of a second one of the plurality of shirt buttons;

a flexible connector engaged to the first cover and the second cover; and

wherein the first cover or the second cover is adapted for passage between the necktie label and the necktie;

wherein the first cover comprises a first front hingedly connected to a ~~first baseback~~;

wherein the second cover comprises a second front hingedly connected to a second ~~baseback~~;

wherein the first baseback comprises ~~an~~ a first slot and an a first opening wherein the first slot is adapted for passage of a first group of threads for affixing the first one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt and the first opening is adapted for receiving the first group of threads;

wherein the second baseback comprises ~~an~~ a second slot and ~~an~~ a second opening wherein the second slot is adapted for passage of a second group of threads affixing the second one of the plurality of shirt buttons to the shirt;

wherein the flexible connector comprises a first end and a second end;

wherein the first end is connected to the first cover by a first ring and the second end is connected to the second cover by a second ring;

wherein the first front further comprises a first flat circular top area adapted for placement of an artwork;

wherein the second front further comprises a second flat circular top area adapted for placement of an artwork;

wherein the first ~~cover-top-front~~ and the first back may be engaged by a plurality of first posts;

wherein the second ~~cover-top-front~~ and the second back may be engaged by a plurality of second posts;

wherein the first back comprises a first hinge that is of unitary construction with the first back; and

wherein the second back comprises a second hinge that is of unitary construction with the second back.

28. (Original) The necktie control device of claim 27 wherein the first cover and the second cover are identical.

29. (Original) The connector of claim 27 wherein the length of the connector is in the range of approximately 3 ½ inches to 4 inches.

30. (Original) The necktie control device of claim 27 wherein the connector comprises a chain.

31. (Currently amended) A necktie control device comprising a set of two covers adapted for covering at least one side and a circumferential edge of each of two shirt buttons and also engaging each of a group of threads affixing each of the two shirt buttons to a shirt a ~~corresponding set of two buttons on a shirt~~ wherein the two covers are flexibly connected.